

Week commencing 2nd November 2020

## House Group Bible Study -

### 'Another look at the Good Samaritan'

*Prepared by Mervyn*



Here is another way of looking at the story of the Good Samaritan that I didn't have time to explore in the service on Sunday

"Then Jesus answered and said: "**A certain man** went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and **fell among thieves**, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, **leaving him half dead**. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But **a certain Samaritan**, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, **he had compassion**. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and **took care of him**. On the next day, when he departed, he took out **two denarii**, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, **when I come again, I will repay you.**' Luke 10:30-35



#### Possible Interpretation

- "a certain man" = Adam (all mankind)
- "thieves" = Satan & his demons
- "Pharisee and Levite" = The law and prophets
- "Samaritan" = Jesus Christ

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, a certain man falls among thieves who strip him, beat him, and leave him half dead. Jesus described Satan as a thief who comes to steal, kill, and destroy:

"The thief (Satan) does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life" (John 10:10).

In the Garden of Eden, Adam & Eve were not to eat from the tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil, or they would die. Satan, the thief, came along and coerced them into eating from that tree, and he **STOLE** their happy existence away from them, **KILLED** them spiritually, and ultimately wanted to **DESTROY** them forever, which is the Second Death. The parable of the Good Samaritan accurately describes this situation, for it says the thieves (Satan) left the man (Adam) half dead. Adam & Eve tasted the first death with one more to experience — the Second Death. Therefore, they were half dead! And what happened to Adam & Eve was passed down to all mankind, so we are all half dead.

Jerusalem, the holy city can represent the presence of God, and Jericho is the lowest city on earth at 250 metres below sea level. Symbolically the man was going down from God's presence to the deepest depths, which reminds us of the fall.

The Pharisee and Levite (Law and prophets) can only look on in pity, but are powerless to rescue half dead humanity.

But then The GS comes along (Jesus) and he has compassion on the half dead man. Over and over again, the Bible tells of Jesus having compassion on us:

“But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.” Matt 9:36

“And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.” Matthew 14:14

So the Good Samaritan picks the man up, puts him on his animal, takes him to an inn, and takes care of him. This is like what a shepherd would do for his sheep, if they were lost or hurt. And of course, the Bible says Jesus is our Shepherd, who laid down his life for us:

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.” John 10

The Good Samaritan paid the full price to restore the man and promised to cover any extra cost. On the cross Jesus completely paid the price for our sin and made it possible for us to be made fully alive again. In this way, Jesus “took care of us” like the GS did to the half dead man in the parable.

Interestingly, the next day, The GS tells the innkeeper he's leaving, but that he'll come back. This could represent the fact that Jesus was going to leave earth after his first coming, but that he'll come back one day:

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” John 14:3

The GS hands the man two denarii, and tells him he'll repay him whatever else he owes him when he returns. In Jesus' day, one denarii represented an average man's pay for one day's work, so two denarii covered TWO days wages:

“Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard.” Matthew 20:2

This seemingly trivial, unimportant, little detail in the parable of the Good Samaritan could be a pointer that Jesus Christ will return to planet Earth in two days after he leaves it! In 2 Peter 3:8 it says that with God a day is like a thousand years, so we are now living in a time which is around two days since Jesus was here!

**Does this interpretation give you a new perspective on the story?**

**Is there an area in your life that has been stolen by 'thieves and robbers' - Satan?**

**Does Jesus as The Good Samaritan give you fresh hope of restoration?**